

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 08881 041036Z

ACTION IO-14

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UNIDO

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SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIALIZED AGENCY CONSTITUTION
FOR UNIDO

1. SUMMARY. THERE IS UNCERTAINTY IN VIENNA WHETHER G-77
WILL PRESS FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIAL-
IZED AGENCY CONSTITUTION FOR UNIDO OR OPT FOR FURTHER DELAY.
REPORTED LACK OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES FOR MEETING IN NEW YORK
BEFORE MIDDLE OF 1978 COULD BE USED AS EXCUSE FOR DELAY
OR COULD REQUIRE DECISIONS ON RELATIVE PRIORITY WITH OTHER
MEETINGS. MISSION SUGGESTS USG MAINTAIN ATTITUDE OF POSITIVE
INTEREST IN EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND REQUESTS
DEPARTMENT'S AND USUN'S COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF RECENT SERIES OF COURTESY CALLS ON COLLEAGUES
IN OTHER MISSIONS TO UNIDO, SUBJECT OF RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIALIZED AGENCY CONSTITUTION FOR UNIDO HAS
REPEATEDLY COME UNDER DISCUSSION AS MATTER OF SPECIAL INTEREST
TO VIENNA MISSION. GIVEN OUTCOME OF SUMMER SESSION
ECOSOC, WHICH, IN EFFECT, RESULTED IN REFERRAL OF QUESTION
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 08881 041036Z

OF RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS TO 32ND GA FOR DECISION,
VIENNA MISSIONS GENERALLY FEEL OUT OF TOUCH WITH DECISION-
MAKING PROCESS AT THIS STAGE AND NONE PROFESSES TO HAVE
CLEAR PICTURE OF PROBABILITIES OR POSSIBILITIES. HOWEVER,
FROM VARIOUS, SOMETIMES CONFLICTING, STORIES HERE, TWO BASIC
AND INTER-RELATED QUESTIONS ARISE: (A) DOES SHORTAGE OF
MEETING SPACE IN NEWYORK CREATE INSUPERABLE PRACTICAL IM-

PEDIMENT TO EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND (B) HAS G-77 ENTHUSIASM FOR NEGOTIATIONS WANED.

3. ALTHOUGH FACTS ARE HARD TO COME BY, IT IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT MEETING SPACE IN NEW YORK WILL BE AT A PREMIUM FOR AT LEAST FIRST HALF OF 1978 BECAUSE OF HEAVY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY-MARCH PERIOD AND REMODELING OF HEADQUARTERS BEGINNING IN MARCH AND CONTINUING FOR SOME TIME THEREAFTER. IF THIS IS THE CASE, NEGOTIATIONS ON CONSTITUTION COULD ONLY BE RESUMED BEFORE MIDDLE OR LATTER PART OF 1978 IF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS --MOST IMPORTANTLY G-77--ACCORD THEM SUFFICIENTLY HIGH PRIORITY TO CALL FOR DISPLACEMENT OF OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS. (POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK, E.G., GENEVA OR VIENNA, IS CONSIDERED REMOTE). ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION OF SITUATION, DECISION ON EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS RESTS, SQUARELY WITH G-77.

4. OUR CONVERSATIONS HAVE PROVIDED EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS WITHIN G-77 ON WHETHER A DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR UNIDO ALONG LINES OF THAT WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE IS ACCEPTABLE. G-77. REPS IN VIENNA RECOGNIZE NEED FOR CONSTITUTION THAT WILL BE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO RATIFICATION BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. THEY APPEAR CONVINCED THAT THEY HAVE NEGOTIATED A SOUND AND BASICALLY SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO G-77 NEEDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 08881 041036Z

IN SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF UNIDO AS SPECIALIZED AGENCY. THEY ARE QUICK TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT MANY OF THEIR G-77 COLLEAGUES IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK, WHO ARE MORE ACCUSTOMED TO WORKING IN A "POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE" AND LESS AWARE OF THE LIMITS OF NEGOTIATION IN THIS CASE, DO NOT SHARE THIS VIEW. ONE PROMINENT G-77 AMBASSADOR, IN DESCRIBING THE ATTITUDE OF HIS GENEVA COLLEAGUES, SAID THAT THEY WOULD FIND PRIMA FACIE UNSATISFACTORY ANYTHING NEGOTIATED IN VIENNA THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON THE PREMISE THAT IT MUST REPRESENT NO GAIN OR PERHAPS A LOSS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' INTERESTS. MORE THAN ONE VIENNA-BASED G-77 REP HAS ATTRIBUTED THE UNRAVELLING AT THE END OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE TO THE ARRIVAL ON THE SCENE OF MORE "MILITANT" COLLEAGUES WITH LITTLE DETAILED UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES. IF, IN FACT, INFLUENTIAL VOICES WITHIN THE G-77 ARE QUESTIONING THE VALUE OF THE EXERCISE, THE G-77 MAY NOT PRESS FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS.

5. USG'S POSITION HAS BEEN TO FAVOR MOVING AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE AND OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES APPEAR GENERALLY TO TAKE SAME LINE. IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IS THERE ANYTHING USG OR GROUP B CAN DO TO PROMOTE POSITIVE DECISION TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

EARLY IN 1978? MISSION'S JUDGMENT IS (A) THAT OVERT LOBBYING
COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE BY REINFORCING VIEW OF THOSE IN
G-77 WHO ARGUE THAT PRESENT TREND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS ONLY
TO ADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND (B) THAT, IN ANY EVENT,
NO FORWARD PROGRESS WILL BE POSSIBLE UNTIL G-77 HAS REACHED
INTERNAL CONSENSUS. OUR BEST APPROACH WOULD APPEAR TO BE
TO MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE OF POSITIVE INTEREST, MAKING CLEAR
THAT WE ARE READY AND ANXIOUS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AT
EARLY DATE IF SUITABLE TWO-STAGE PROCEDURES CAN BE AGREED
UPON.

6. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND USUN'S COMMENTS
ON FOREGOING, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR ANY LIGHT USUN CAN SHED
ON STATE OF PLAY IN NEW YORK. LEARY
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